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PRADYUMNA



THE SON OF KRISHNA AND RUKMINI

Daksha, Shiva's father-in-law, had never given his ascetic son-in-law the respect due to him. Sati, Daksha's daughter, unable to bear the continued insults meted out to them, consumed her body in a fire generated by her own powers. The grief-stricken Shiva after punishing Daksha, forgave him and then entered his grove on the Himalayas to meditate.

Meanwhile, Tarakasura, an enemy of the Devas, invaded heaven. When the Devas went to Brahma for help he told them that Sati, reborn as Parvati, the daughter of Himavan, was destined to marry Shiva. The son born of Shiva would lead them to victory over the evil Asura. Impatient to win back his kingdom, Indra, King of the Devas, sent Kama, the God of love, with Rati, his wife, to awake Shiva to the charms of Parvati. Kama succeeded. But an enraged Shiva burnt him to ashes with the fire of his wrath. How the bereft Rati was reunited with her beloved husband is retold in the story of Pradyumna who was Kama reborn.

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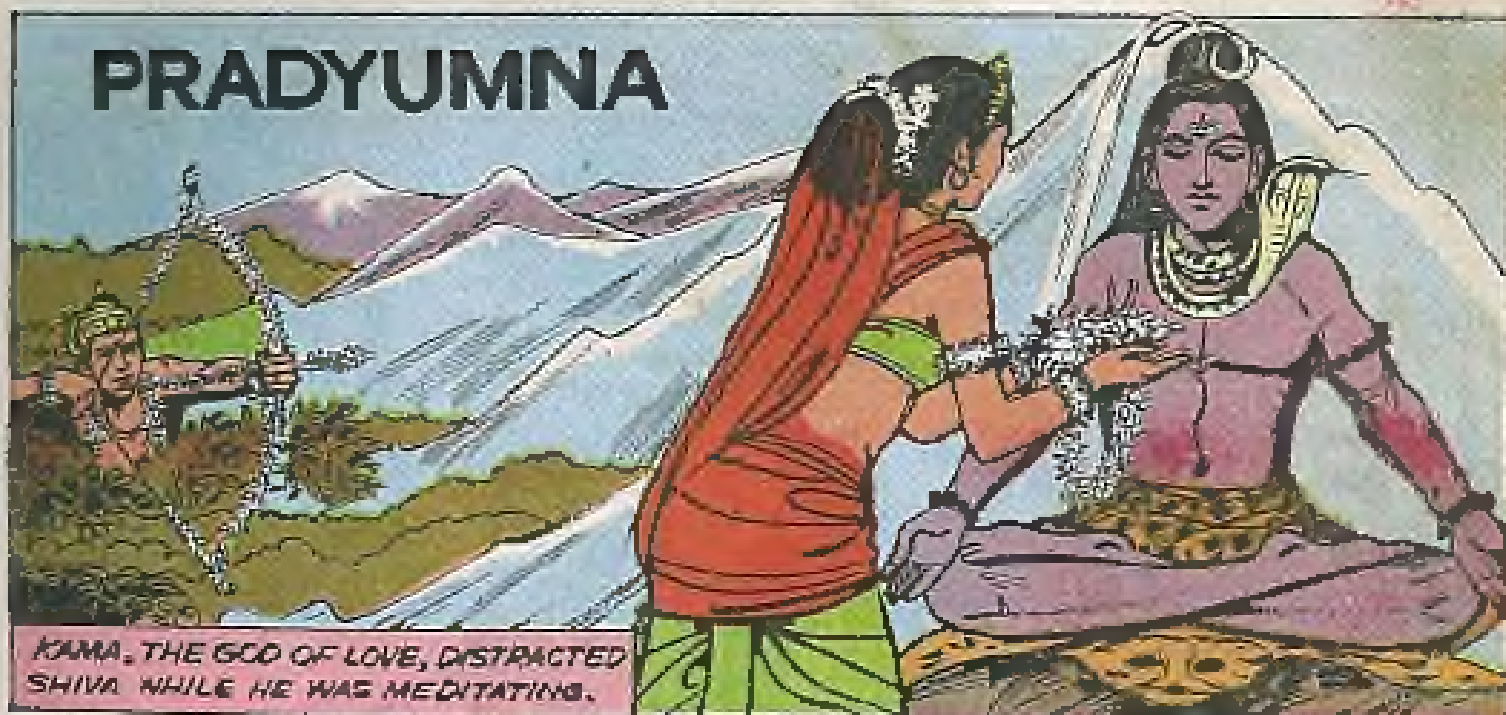
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PRADYUMNA



KAMA, THE GOD OF LOVE, DISTRACTED SHIVA WHILE HE WAS MEDITATING.

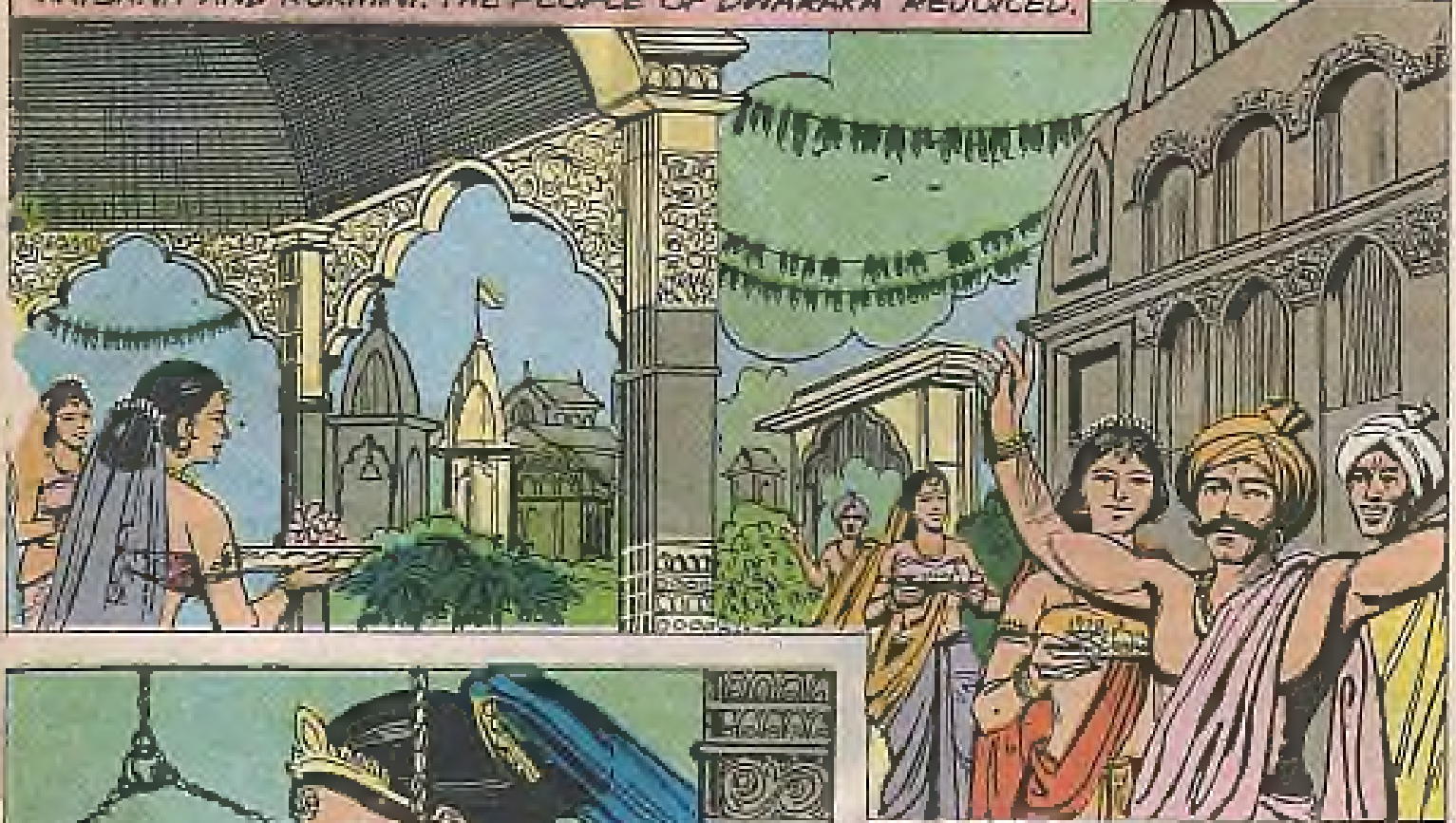
SHIVA WAS ENRAGED.

WHO HAS
DARED TO
DISTURB ME?

WHEN HE SAW THAT KAMA WAS THE CULPRIT,
HE OPENED HIS THIRD EYE AND, TO THE
HORROR OF RATI, KAMA'S WIFE, BURNT THAT
GOD TO CINDERS.

NO! NO!

BUT UNKNOWN TO RATI, KAMA WAS REBORN AS PRADYUMNA, THE ELDEST SON OF KRISHNA AND RUKMINI. THE PEOPLE OF DWARAKA REJOICED.



MY SON, YOU SHALL GROW UP TO BE A VALIANT HERO LIKE YOUR FATHER.

A WEEK LATER, AN EVIL ASURA CALLED SHAMBARA HAD A DREAM.

BEWARE, WICKED SHAMBARA. YOU SHALL BE KILLED BY PRADYUMNA, KRISHNA'S SON.

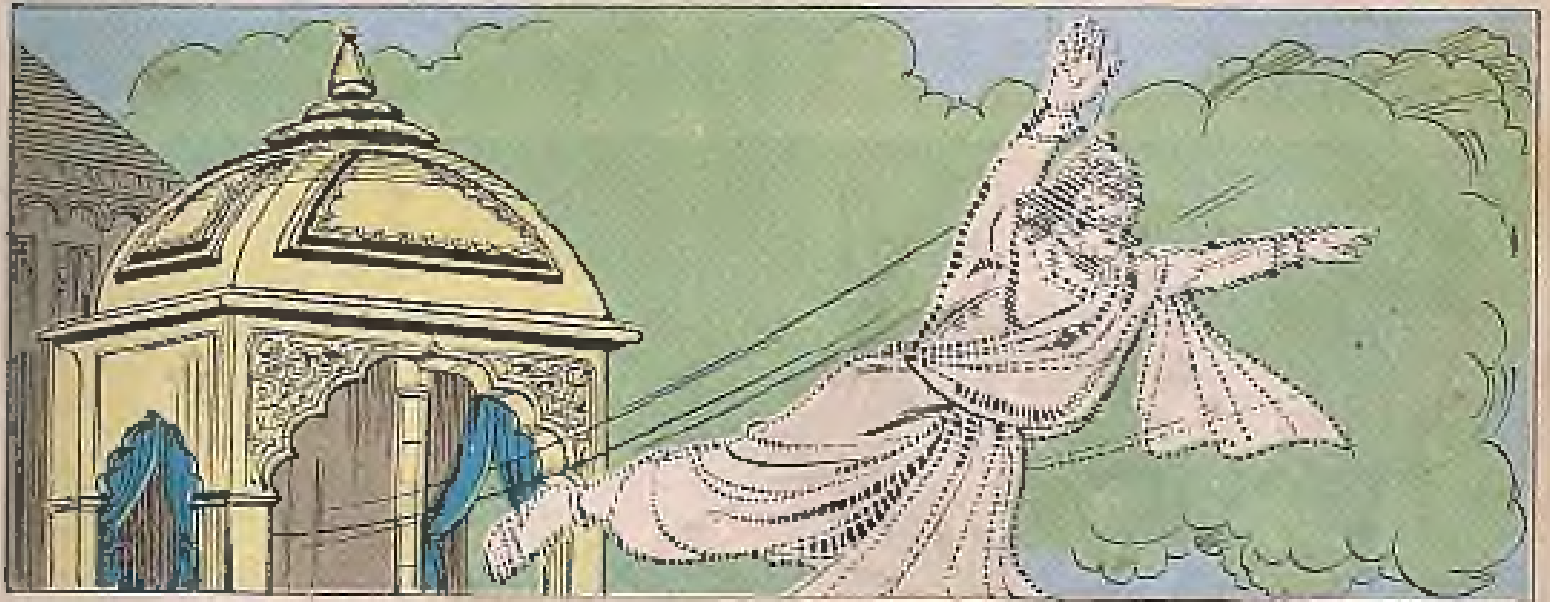
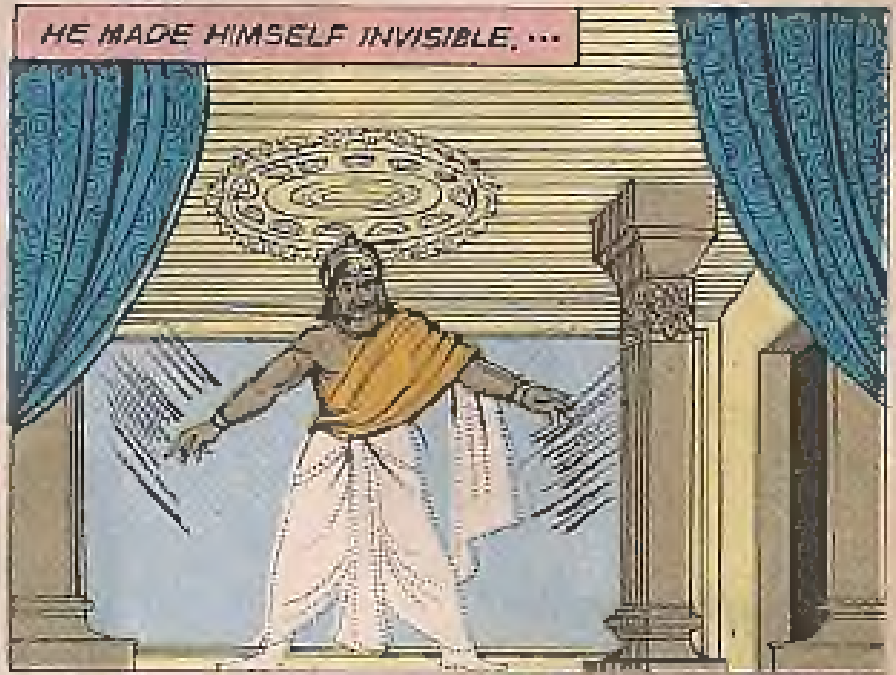


PRADYUMNA

BUT SHAMBARA WAS NOT
PERTURBED.



HE MADE HIMSELF INVISIBLE, ...

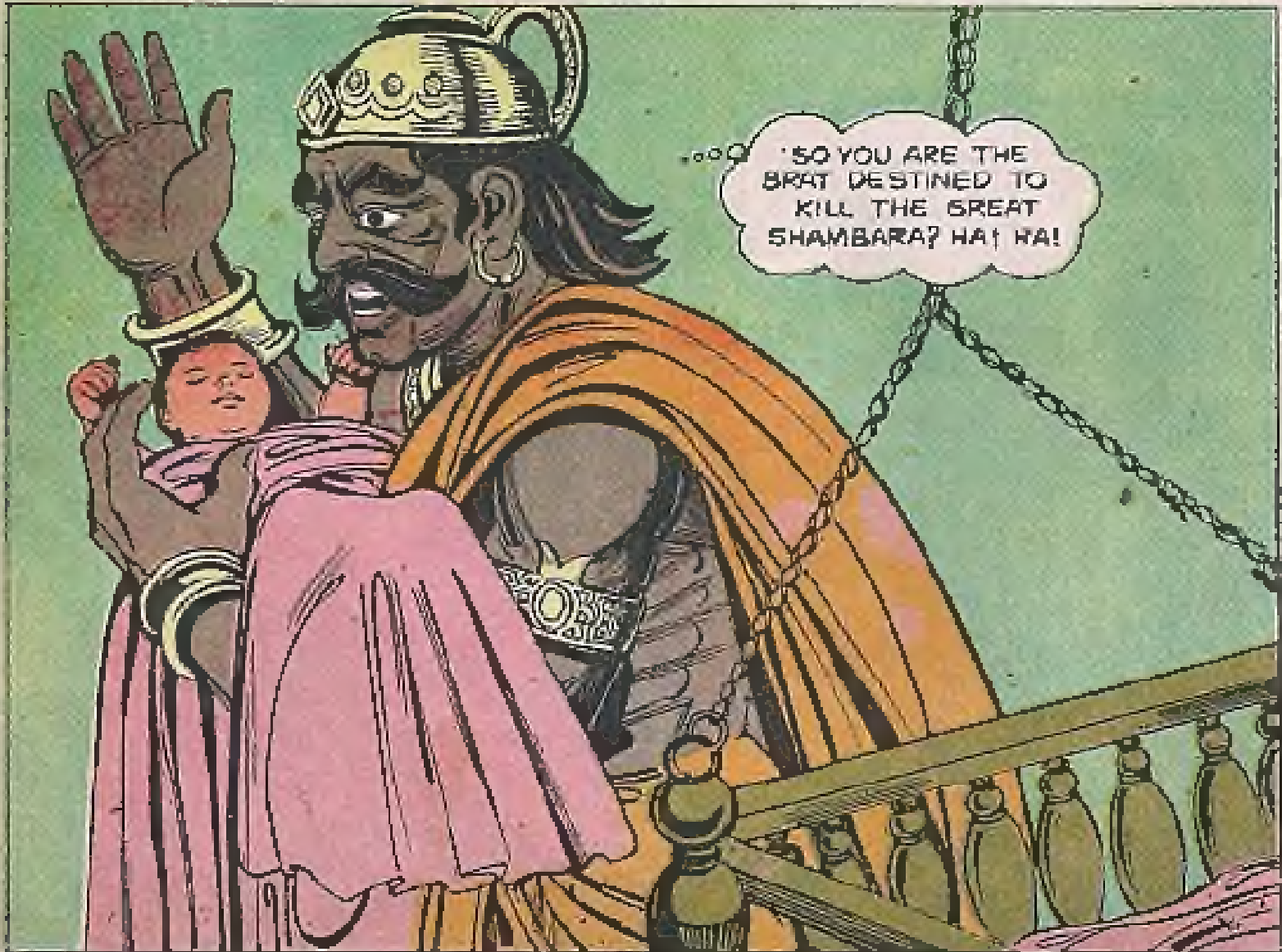


...AND FLOATED THROUGH THE AIR.





HE SOON REACHED KRISHNA'S
PALACE AT DWARAKA.



...SO YOU ARE THE
BRAT DESTINED TO
KILL THE GREAT
SHAMBARA? HA! HA!

A LITTLE LATER, RUKMINI SUDDENLY WOKE UP



THE SLEEPING MAIDS, WOKEN BY HER CRIES, CAME RUNNING UP TO HER.



RUKMINI WAS SO UPSET SHE COULD BARELY SPEAK.



THEY RAN TO KRISHNA.



KRISHNA THE ALL-KNOWING REMAINED UNPERTURBED.



BY THEN, SHAMBARA WAS FAR, FAR AWAY FROM DWARAKA.





THEN SHAMBARA FLEW OVER THE OCEAN...



...AND FLUNG PRADYUMNA INTO ITS DEPTHS.

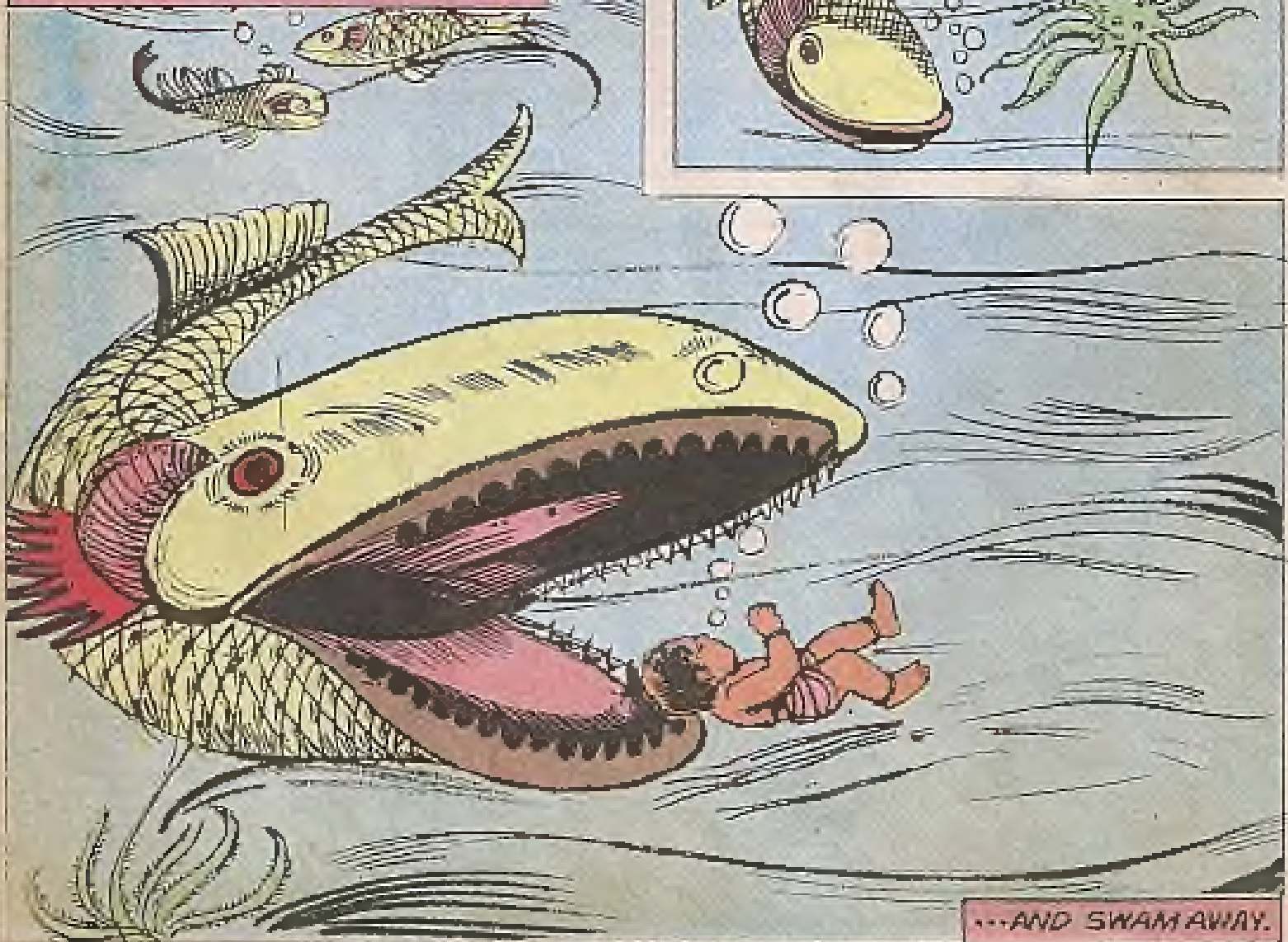




BUT PRADYUMNA DID NOT DIE.



A LARGE FISH SWALLOWED HIM...



...AND SWAM AWAY.



MEANWHILE RATI, THE BEREFT WIFE OF
KAVYA, WAS ABOUT TO
ENTER THE

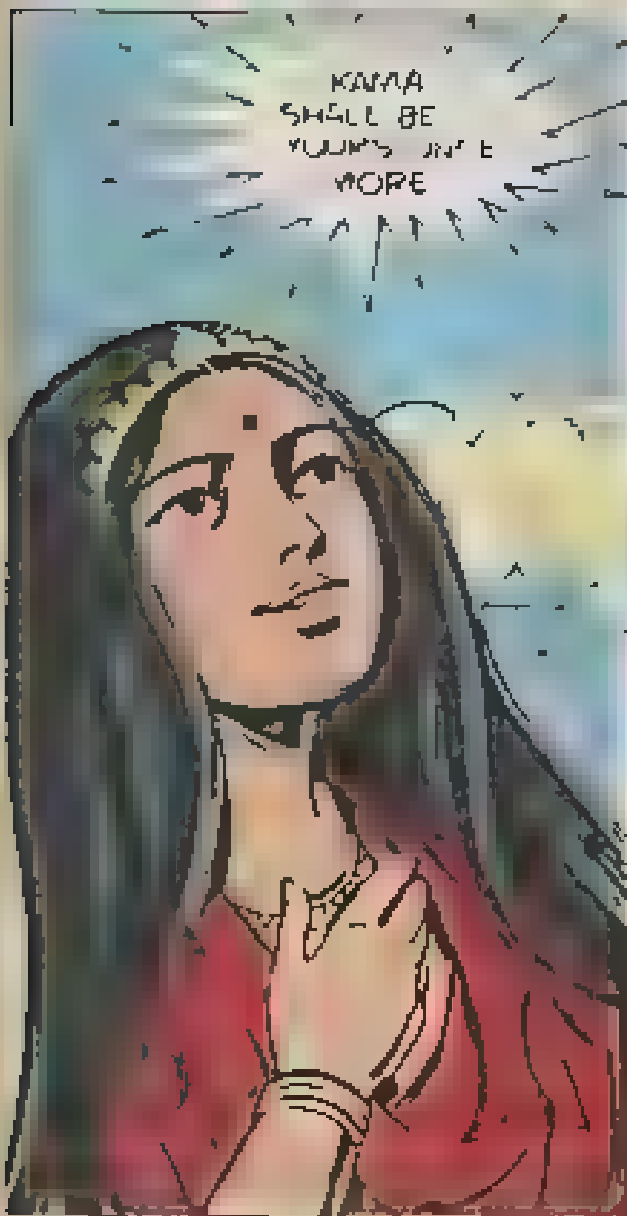


A HEAVENLY VOICE STOPPED HER



WAIT!
ON THE DAY
SHIVA GETS
MARRIED.

KAVYA
SHALL BE
YOUR WIFE
MORE



WHAT SHOULD
DO
MEANWHILE

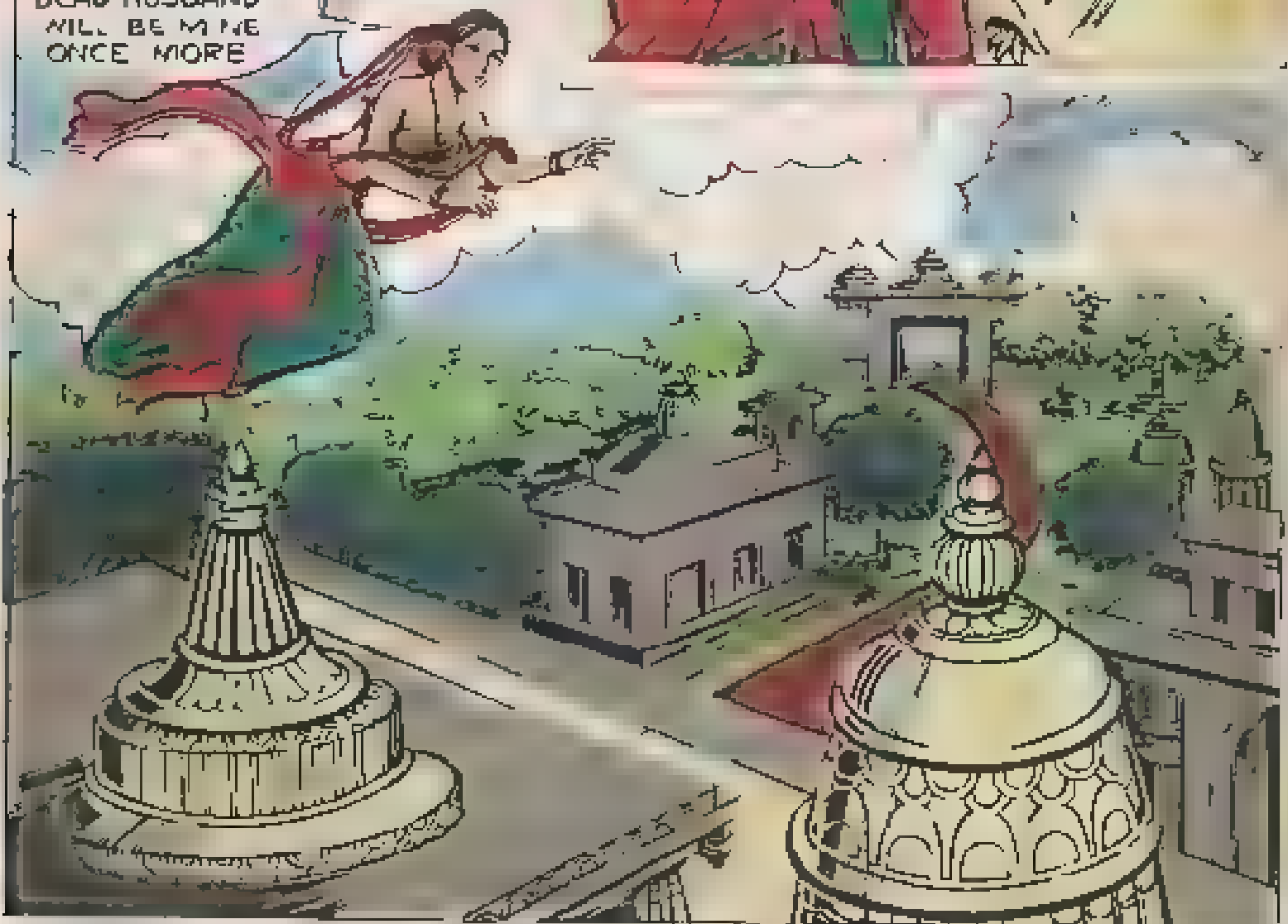
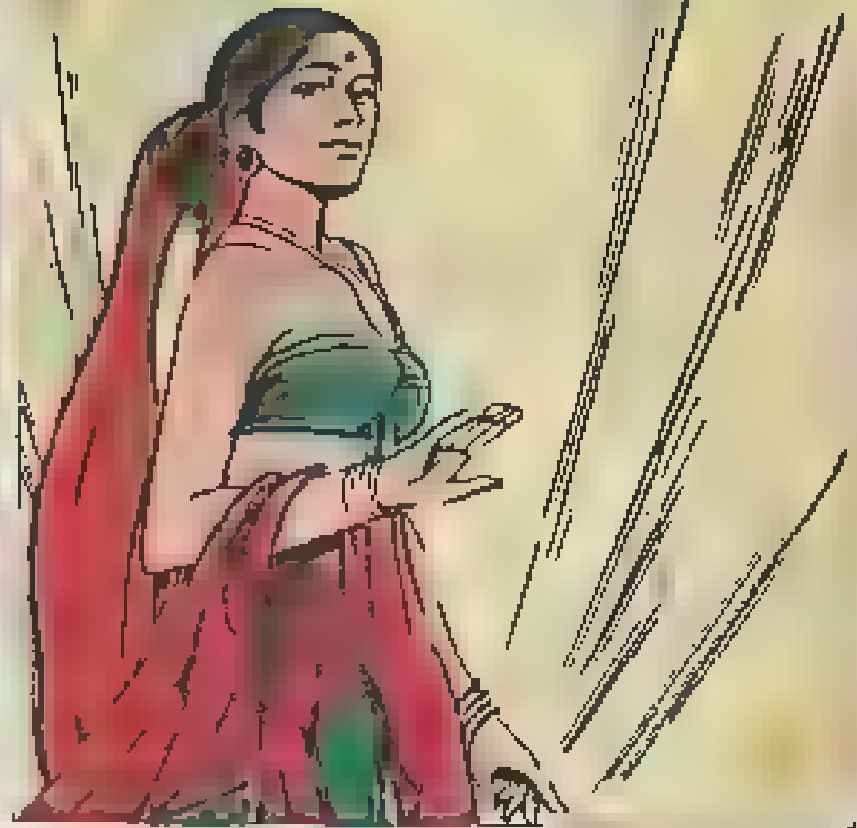


DISGUISE YOURSELF
AS A MAID AND
SEEK WORK IN THE
KITCHEN OF THE
ASUPA, SHAMBARA

SO RATI DISGUISED HERSELF AS A MAID
AND

FLEW TOWARDS SHAMBARA'S
PALACE.

CANNOT BELIEVE
THAT MY DEAR
DEAD HUSBAND
WILL BE MINE
ONCE MORE



AT THE PALACE KITCHEN



WHO ARE YOU?

MY NAME IS MAYAVATI. I SEEK WORK IN THE KITCHEN OF SHAMBHAR'S PLACE.

THE HEAD COOK WAS IMPRESSED BY HER.



'SHE LOOKS NEAT AND CLEAN AND HAS A CHEERFUL FACE. WOULD DO WELL TO ENGAGE HER

THE CHIEF MAID
SAID YOU MAY
WORK IN HER
PLACE.



I AM
GRATEFUL
TO YOU

RAT PASSED HER DAYS IN SHAMBHAR'S KITCHEN, HOPEFULLY WAITING FOR HER HUSBAND TO COME BACK TO HER.



ONE DAY THERE WAS A COMMOTION IN A FISHIER OF THE VILLEN.



WHAT IS
THE MATTER?
OH WHAT A
LARGE
FISH

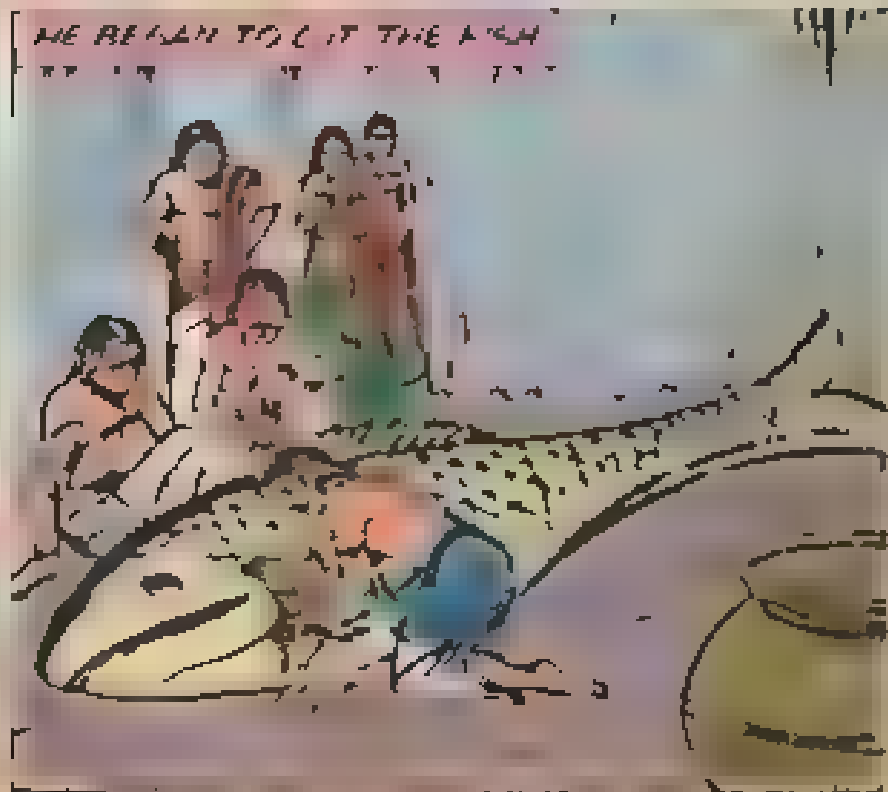
THESE
FISHER-
MEN HAVE
BRUSH
TERR
SHAMBADA.



I SHALL
COOK IT
FOR HIS
DINNER
TODAY



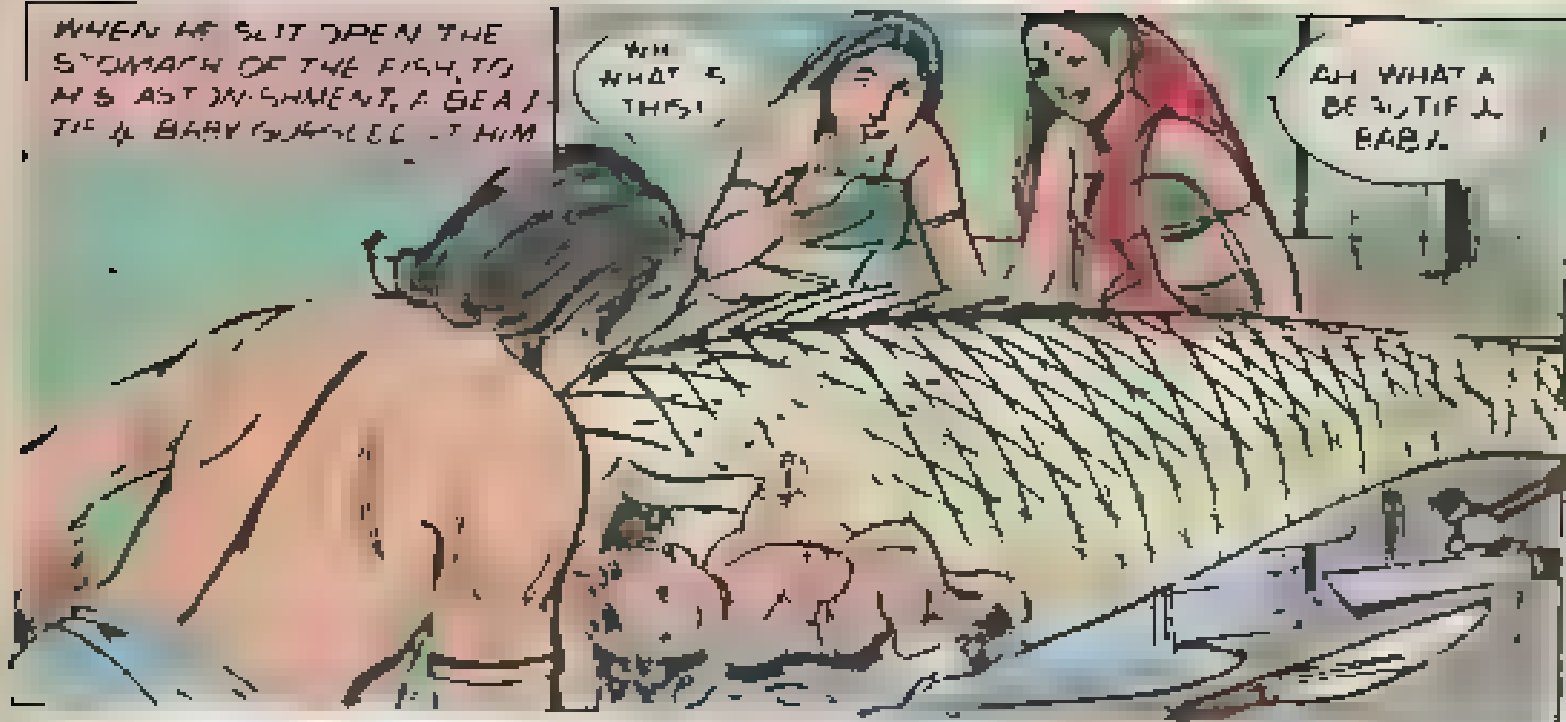
HE BEGAN TO CUT THE FISH



WHEN HE SLIT OPEN THE
STOMACH OF THE FISH, TO
HIS ASTONISHMENT, A BEAU-
TIFUL BABY GOTTEN OUT HIM

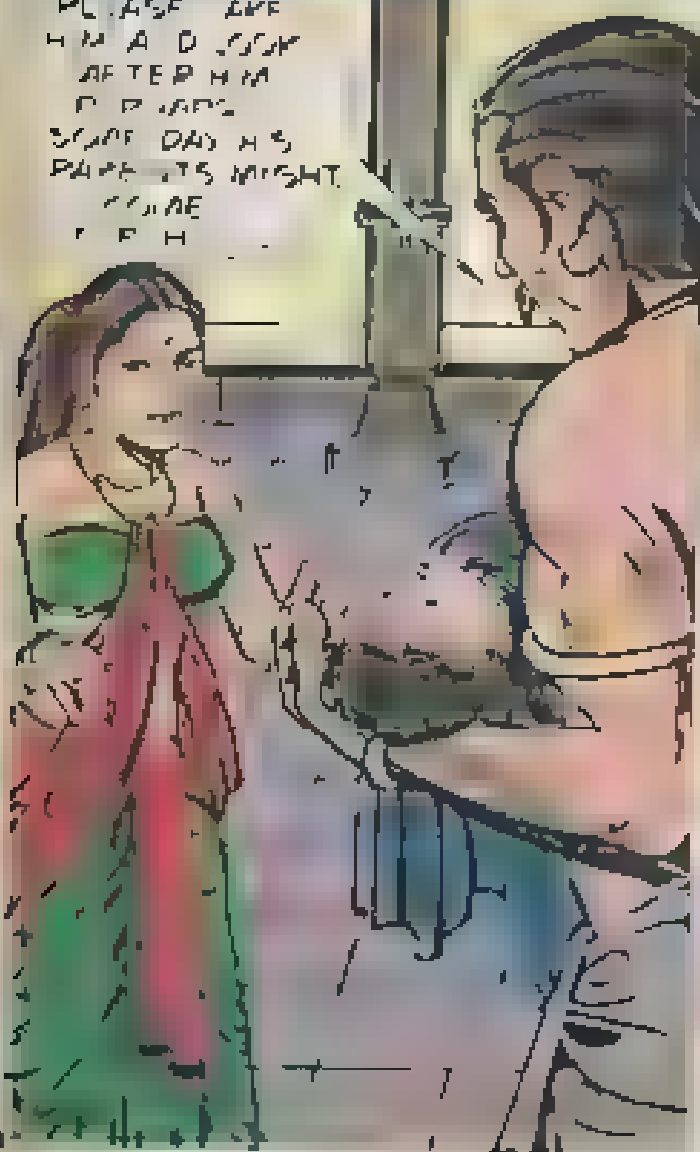
WHY
WHAT IS
THIS!

OH WHAT A
BEAUTIFUL
BABY!

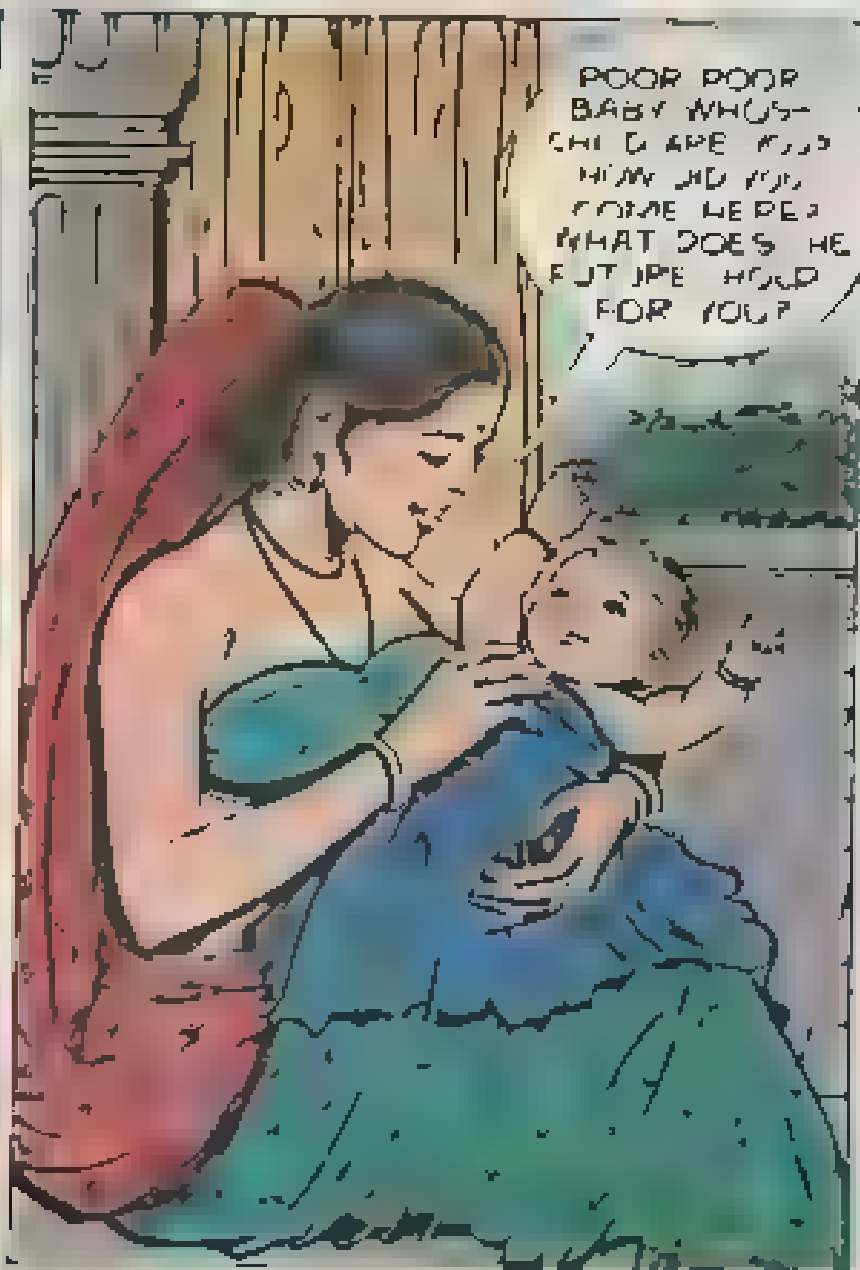


UTTERLY CONFUSED, HE TURNED
TO MAYAVATI

PLEASE GIVE
HIM A DRESS
AFTER HIS
BIRTH.
TODAY HE'S
PARTYING NIGHT
LONG
WITH



POOR POOR
BABY WHOSE
CHILD ARE YOU
HIM AND YOU
COME HERE?
WHAT DOES HE
FUTURE HOLD
FOR YOU?



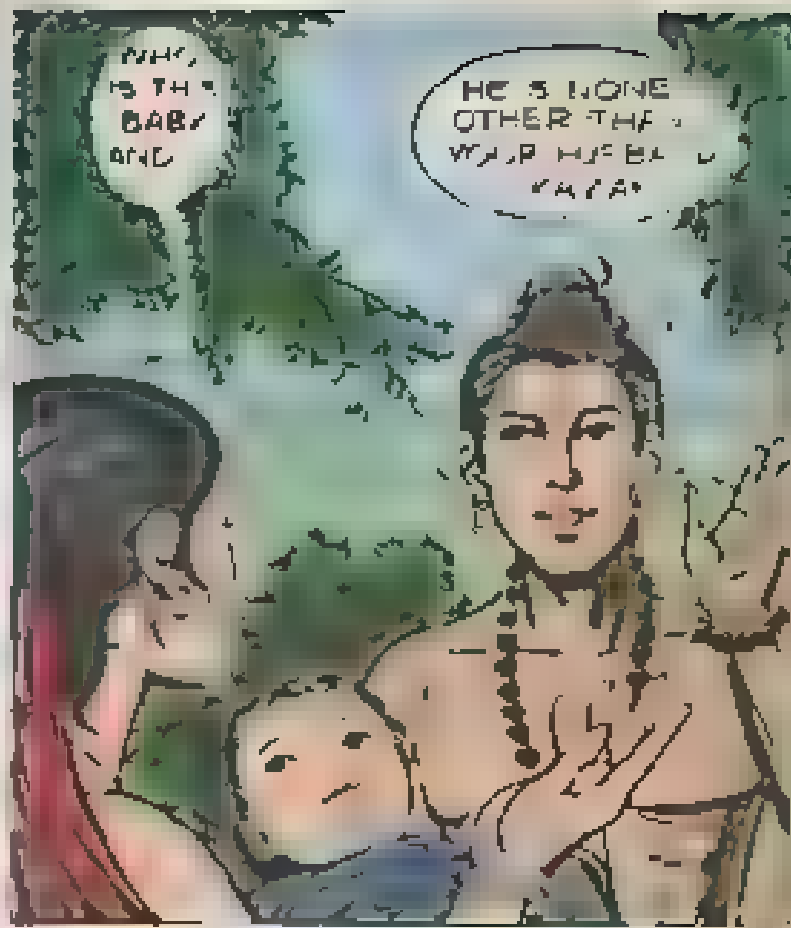
AS MAYAYATI WONDERED THUS, SAGE
NARADA SUDDENLY APPEARED.

WELL, THEN,
VENERABLE
SAGE, YOU WILL
CERTAINLY BE ABLE
TO SATISFY MY
CURIOSITY.



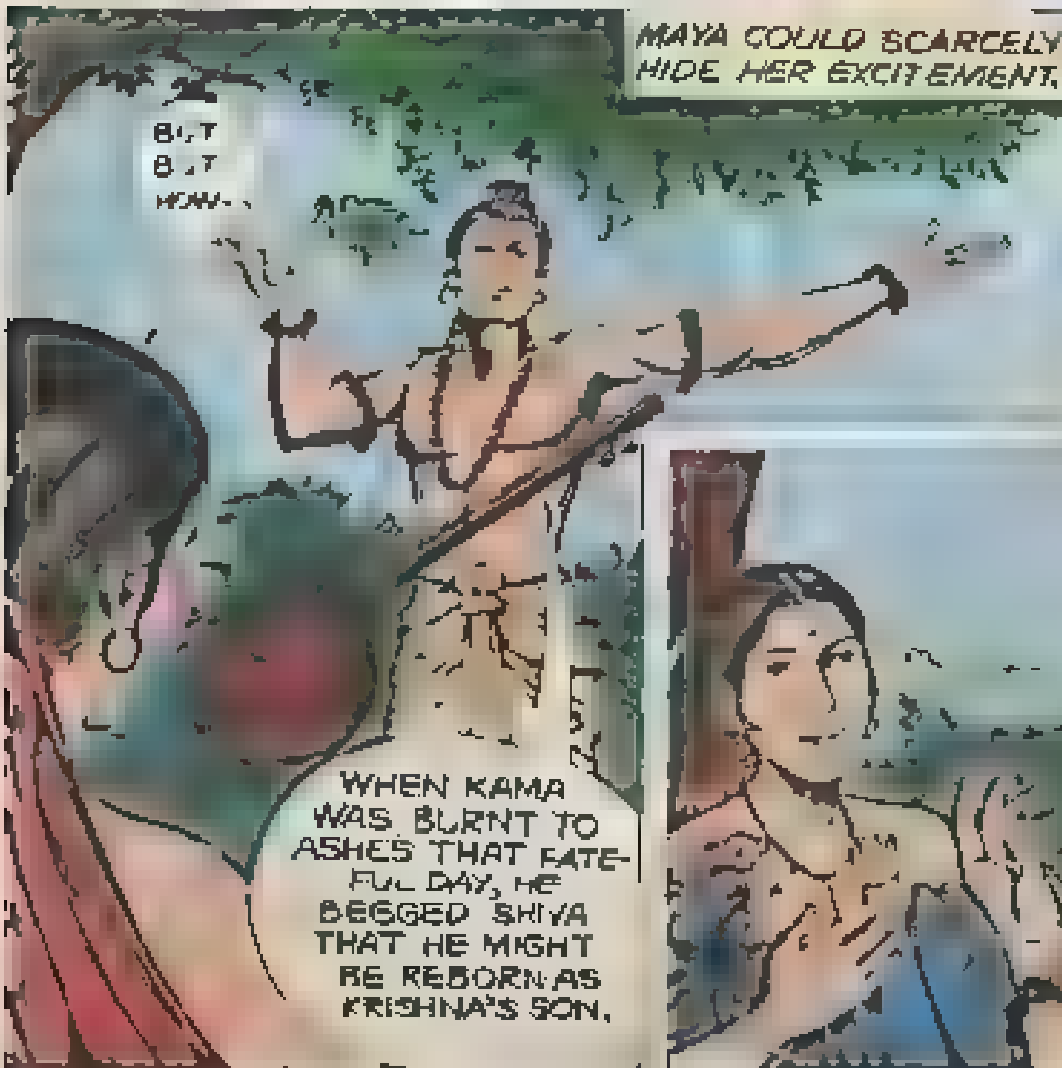
WHY,
IS THE
BABY
GONE

HE'S NONE
OTHER THAN
YOUR HUSBAND
KAMA



MAYA COULD SCARCELY
HIDE HER EXCITEMENT.

BUT
BUT
HOW...



AT THAT
TIME, RUKMINI
WAS ABOUT TO
HAVE A BABY.
SO KAMA WAS
GRANTED
HIS WISH.



WHEN KAMA
WAS BURNT TO
ASHES THAT FATE-
FUL DAY, HE
BEGGED SHIVA
THAT HE MIGHT
BE REBORN AS
KRISHNA'S SON.



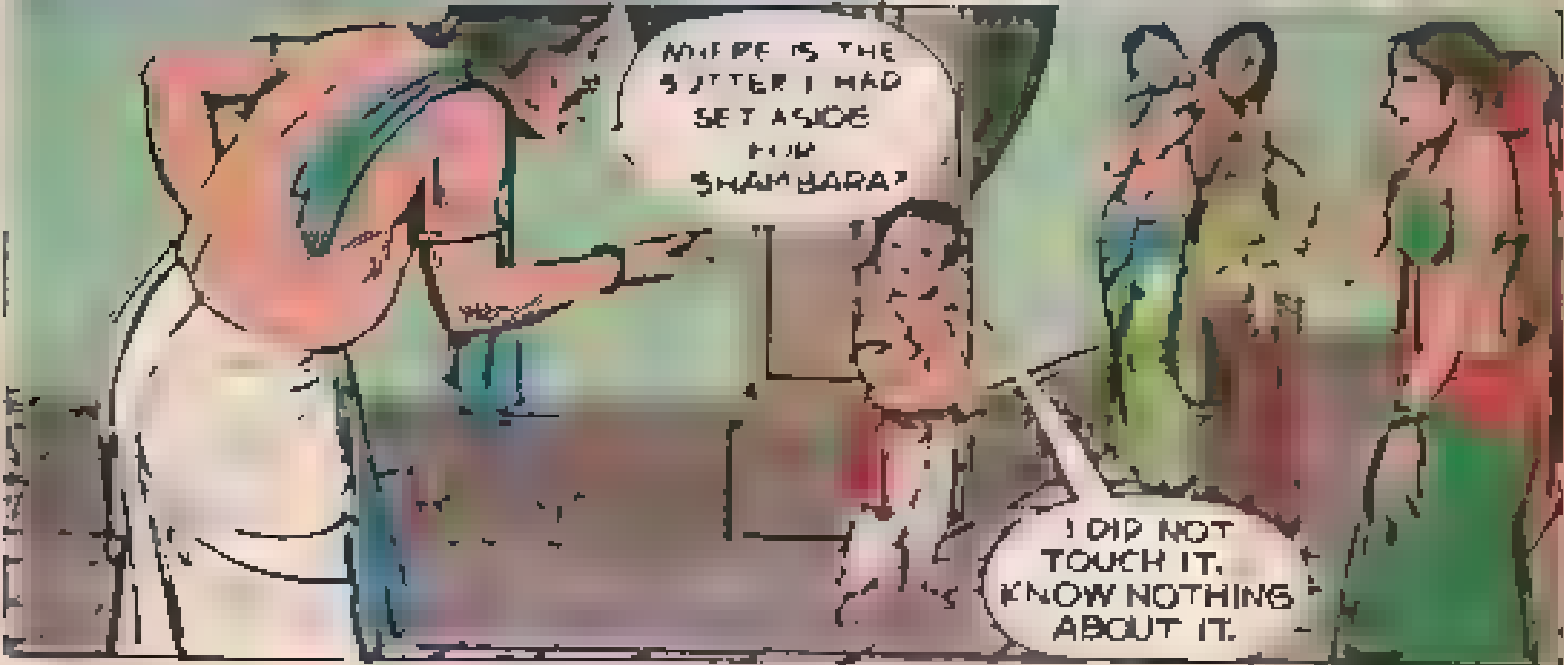
PRADYUMNA BECAME A FAMILIARITE IN THE KITCHEN



I SHALL
FEED HIM
HIS 8TH
TOWAL

I SHALL
FEED HIM
HIS 8TH
TOWAL

HE 'SLIP' PEN INTO A MINUTE'S BOY



WHERE IS THE
BUTTER I HAD
SET ASIDE
FOR
SHAMBARA?

I DID NOT
TOUCH IT.
KNOW NOTHING
ABOUT IT.



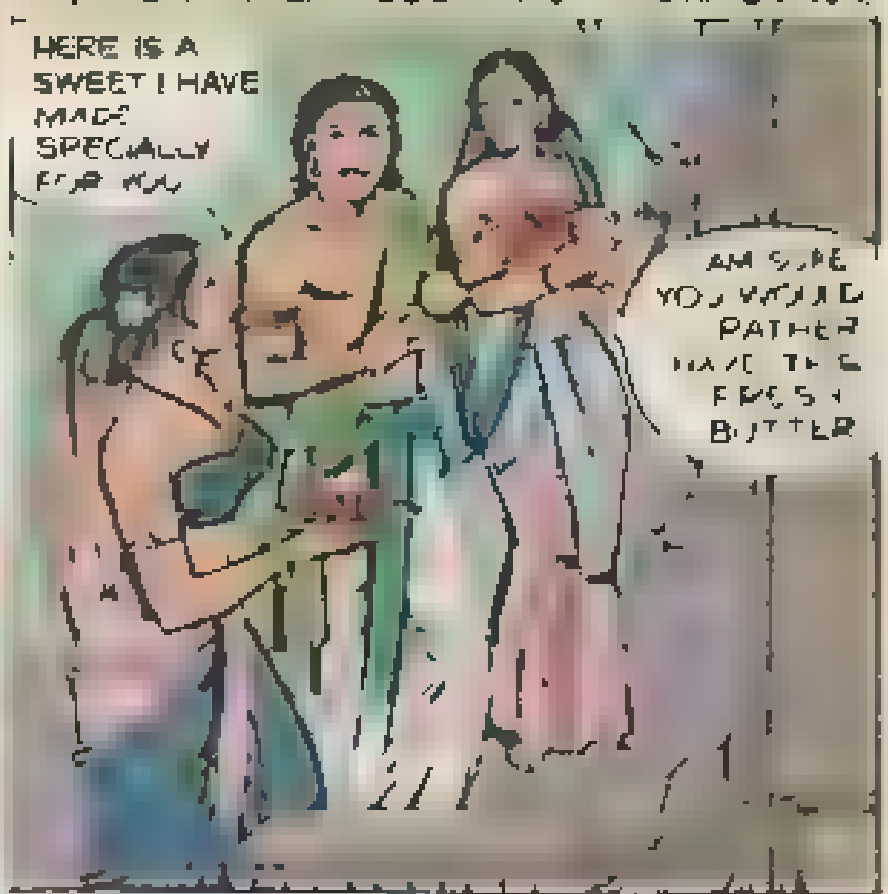
AH! HE IS
THE SON OF
KRISHNA ALL
RIGHT THE SAME
LITTLE FLYING
AND THE SAME
LITTLE FLYING
INNOCENCE WHEN
CAUGHT RED-
HANDED!

SO THE DAYS PASSED AND PRADYUMNA GREW UP INTO A HANDSOME YOUNG MAN. IT



SO CHARMING WAS HE, THAT ALL THE MAIDS IN THE KITCHEN COULDN'T STOP THEIR ATTENTION.

HERE IS A SWEET I HAVE MADE SPECIALLY FOR YOU



AM SURE YOU WOULD PREFER HAVE THE FRESH BUTTER

MAYAVATI WAS ANXIOUS

I THINK THAT SOMEONE TOLD HIM WHO HE REALLY IS.



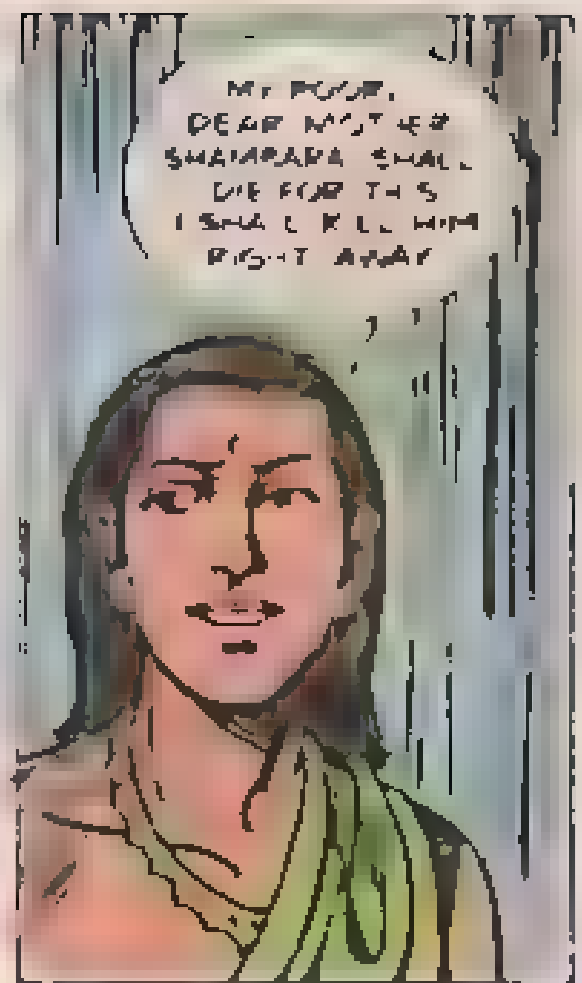
SO HE CALLED PRADYUMNA AND ASIDE TO THE LADY YOU ARE A YOUNG MAN NOW AND SHOULD NOT WASTE YOUR TIME AMONG THE KITCHEN MAIDS.







DEAR MAHA, YOUR
WIFE IS DEAD
FIND OUT, FOR Y
OUR FATHER IS
ALREADY DEAD



MY DEAR,
DEAR MOTHER
SHARADA SHALL
DIE FOR THIS
I SHALL KILL HIM
RIGHT AWAY

PATIENCE, PRADYUMNA
SHALL TAUGHT HOW
TAIN SPELLS THAT HE,
WILL BE ABLE TO COUNTER
SHARADA'S MAGICAL
POWERS

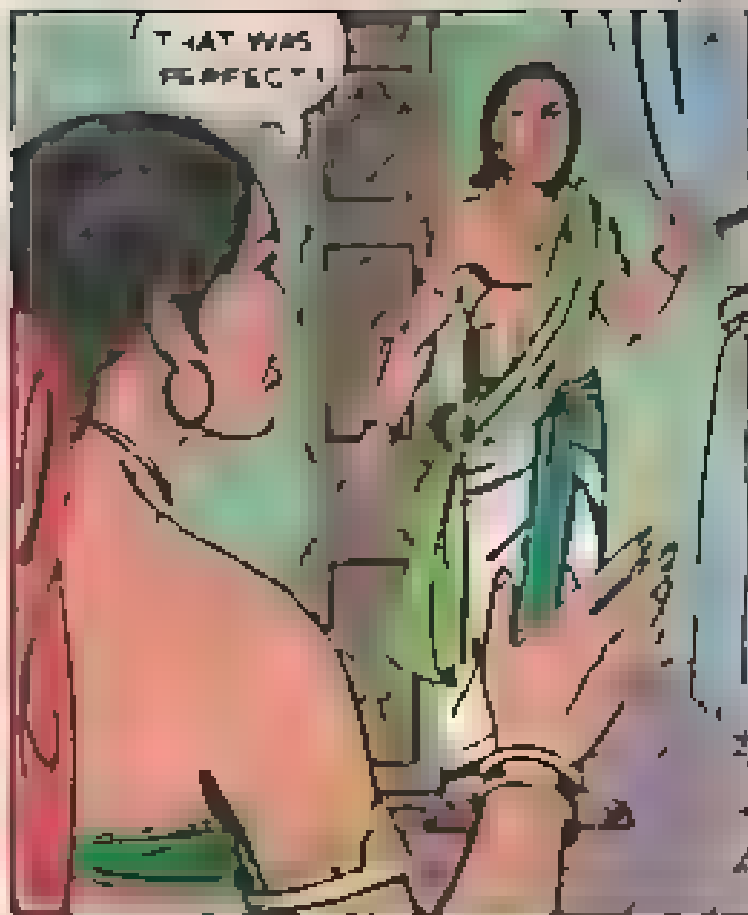


AND MAYAVATI BEGAN
TEACHING PRADYUMNA

HE WAS A CLEVER MAN AND SOON
MASTERSHIP THE SPELLS.



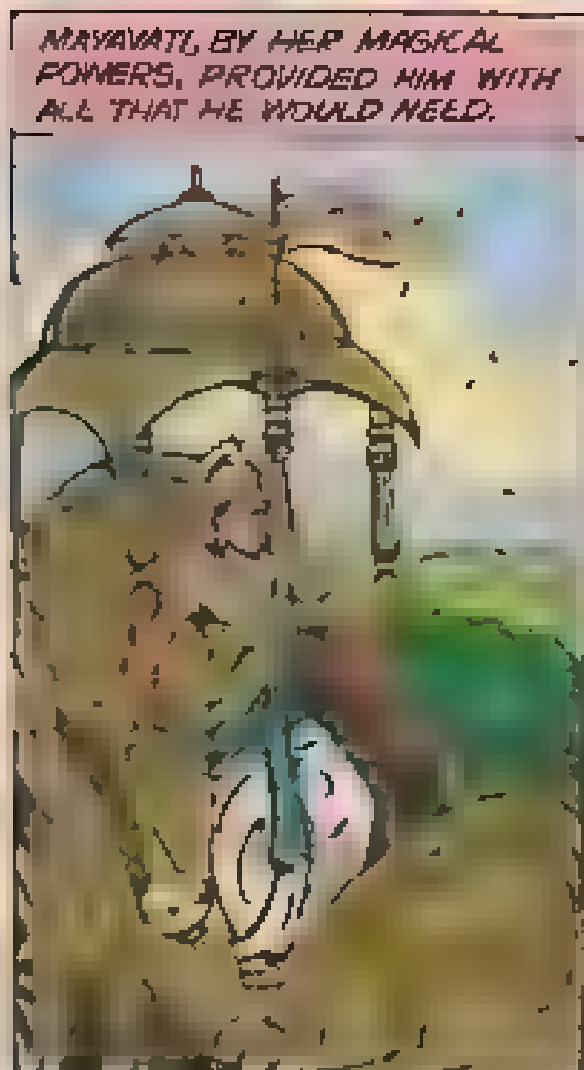
TRY
AND FIND
ME BY
USING THE
MAGIC TO
MAKE THE
INVISIBLE
VISIBLE



THAT WAS PERFECT!



YOU ARE NOW READY TO CHALLENGE THE EVIL SHAMBARA GO RIGHT AND FIGHT HIM



MAYAVATI, BY HER MAGICAL POWERS, PROVIDED HIM WITH ALL THAT HE WOULD NEED.



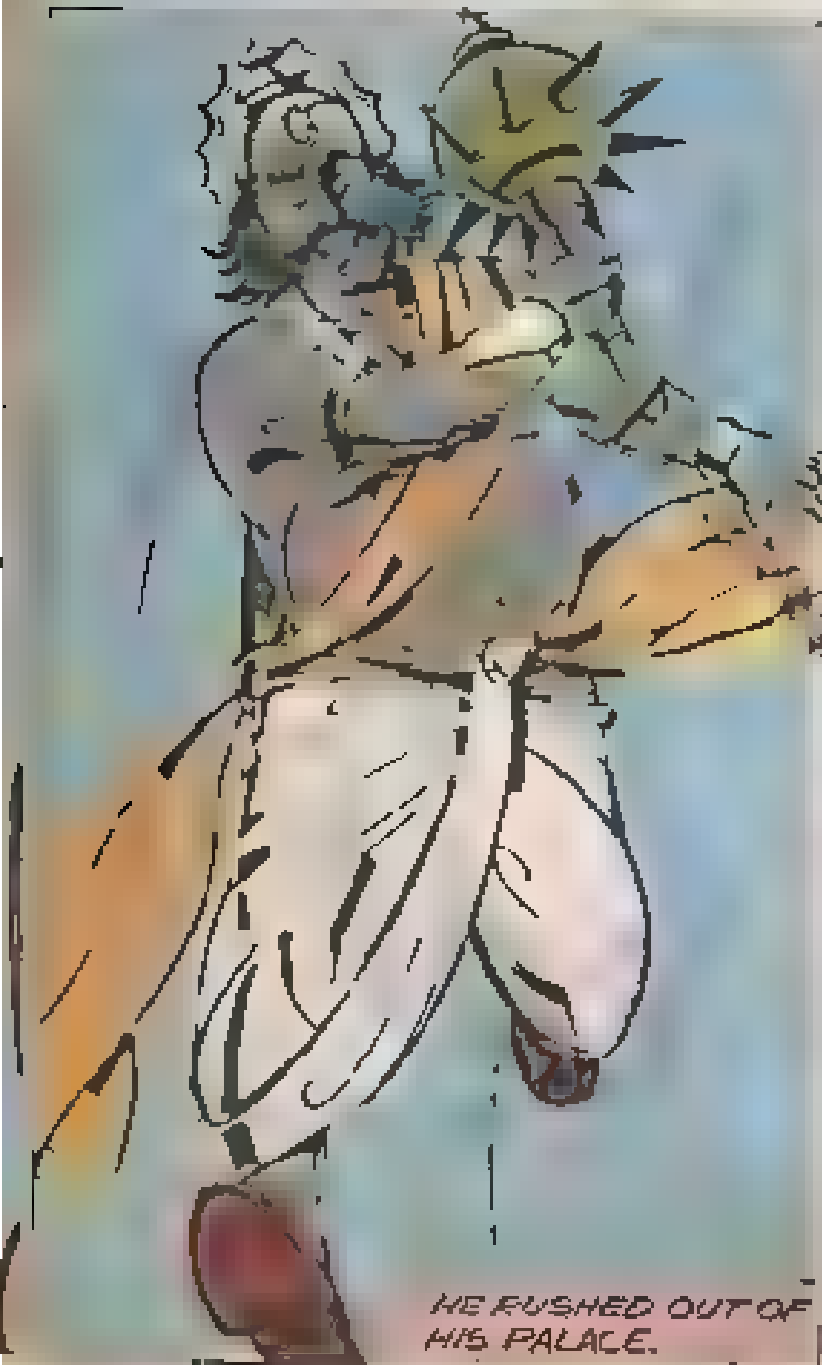
HE WENT TO SHAMBARA'S PALACE AND BEGAN TAUNTING HIM.

COME OUT, O VALIANT ASURA, WHO HEROICALLY STOLE A BABY FROM HIS GENTLE MOTHER'S SIDE COME OUT AND FIGHT

SHAMBARA RUSHED WITH REVENGE WHEN HE
LEARNED THAT THE SECRET WAS LEAKED

WHO COULD
HAVE DISCLOSED
MY SECRET?

I SHALL
TEACH YOU
NOT TO
INSULT
SHAMBARA.
YOU PUNY
JO, TAKI,
WHATEVER
YOU MAY
BE



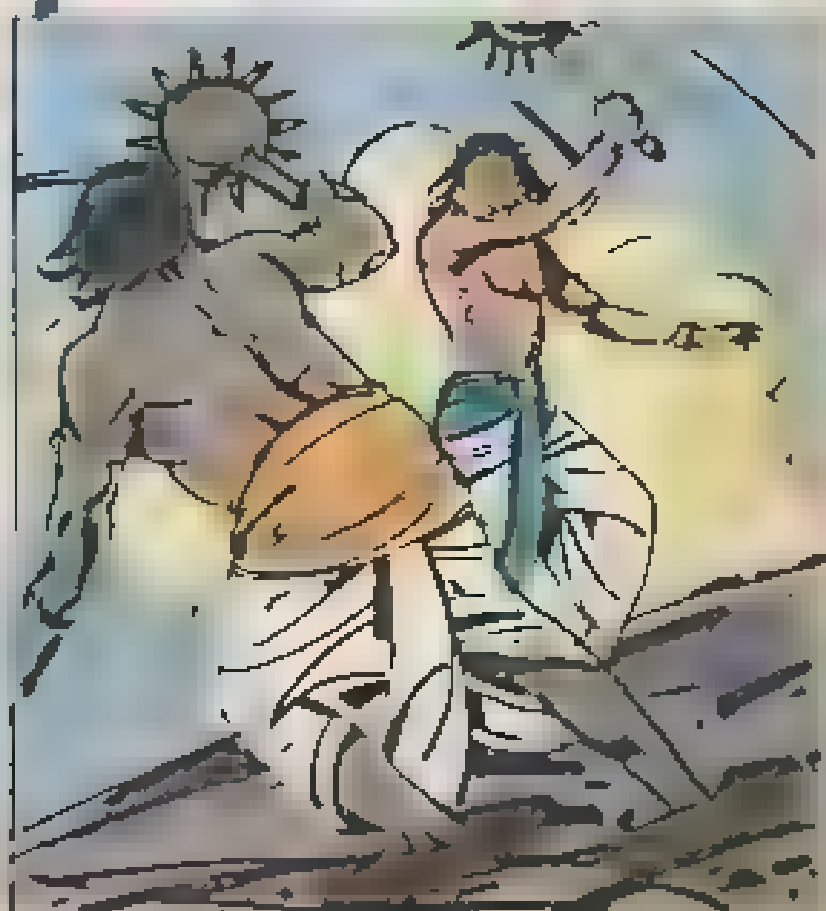
HE RUSHED OUT OF
HIS PALACE.



A MIGHTY COMBAT ENSUED BETWEEN THE TWO



WITH A THUNDEROUS ROAR SHAM-
BI-RA SWUNG HIS MACE AT PRAD-
YUMNA



BUT PRADYUMNA WARDED OFF
THE BLOW WITH HIS OWN MALE.



BUT RESORTING TO MAGIC, SHAMBARA SUDDENLY BECAME INVISIBLE



PRADYUMNA QUICKLY CAST THE SPELL THAT MAHAJAT HAD TAUGHT HIM



AND DRAWING HIS SWORD



SEVERED
SHAMBARA'S
HEAD FROM
HIS BODY





THEN HE WENT TO MAYAVATI.



I HAVE
KILLED
SHAMBARA

COME THEN!!
LET US NOT
WASTE TIME.
MOTHER RUKMINI
HAS SUFFERED
ENOUGH



PROCEEDED TOWARDS LIMBARAKA.



MAYAVATI TOOK PRADYUMNA BY THE
HAND AND SOARING INTO THE SKY



MEANWHILE SHIVA WAS MARRIED TO PARVATI



THE CEREMONY WAS HARDLY OVER WHEN THE GODS CAME TO HIM

WE BES OF YOU TO RESTORE KAMA TO RAT



KAMA SHALL CERTAINLY BE RESTORED TO RATI YES, AM NOW HIS SLAVE



AT THAT MOMENT IN DWARAKA, PHULVATI AND MAYAVATI ENTERED THE INNER CHAMBERS OF KRISHNA'S PALACE

THE LADIES MUST HAVE OBEYED HIM



THE GOD HAS COME

WHY IS THE BEL...

PURMINI, WHO KNEW IT WAS NOT KRISHNA,
WAS PERPLEXED

WHO COULD
THIS
COUPLE BE?



MY
MOTHER
SAID, IF
HE WERE
ALIVE,
HE WOULD BE
ABOUT
THE SAME
AGE AS
THE
YOUNG



HE STOOD FORWARD.

IN FACT HE
LOOKS EXACTLY
LIKE MY LORD
HIS FEATURES,
HIS GAIT,
HIS SMILE AND
HIS GLANCES



SHE WALKED TOWARDS THEM

WHY HE
COULD BE
MY SON!



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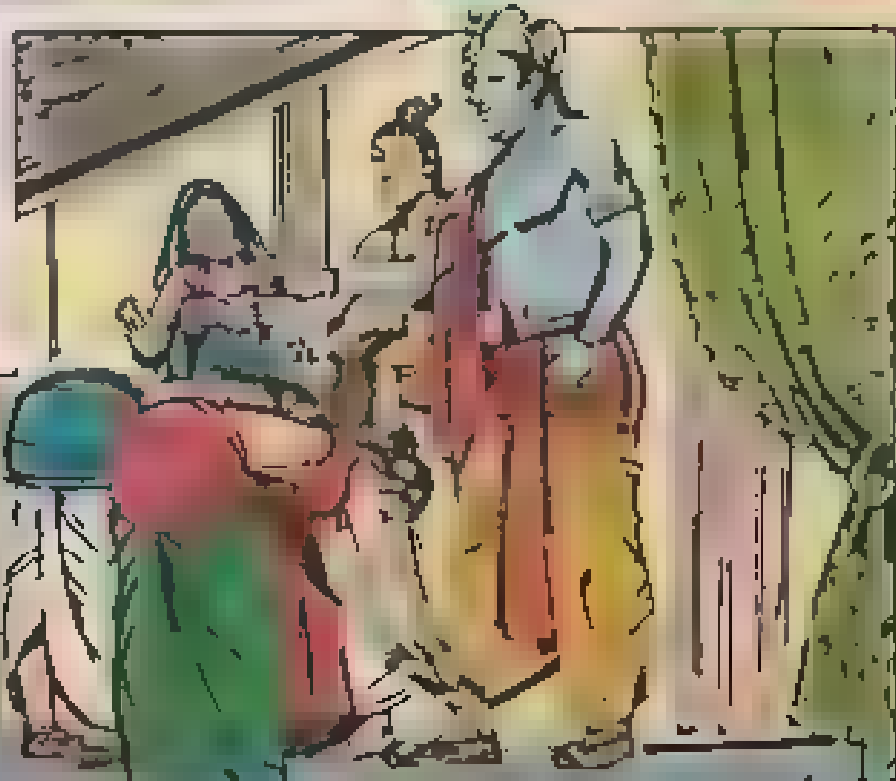
THIS IS PRADYUMNA,
WHO IS RAJA RITH AND
WAS DESTINED TO BE A
SHAMBAHA ADJUNCT
THE DEVOUT RATH
IN THIS BIRTH.



DRALY MINA I WENT TO RATI

MY OWN BELOVED I HAD
NEE WHY DO YOU
NOT TELL ME
EARLIER
TO LEAD
YOU
OUR
PARENTS
FIRST

THE GENTLE
NARAJAT AND
STAN IS BEFORE
HIS SISTER
STAND THAN RAT
KAMA'S
WIFE



RAT AND DRALY MINA THEN FELL AT THE FEET OF NARAJAT, KUSHINI AND PUKMINI

RUKMINI THEN EMBRACED
THE YOUNG COUPLE.



THE CITY OF DWARAKA RESOUNDED WITH EXCLAMATIONS
OF JOY WHEN THE CITIZENS HEARD THAT THE LONG-LOST
PRADYUMNA HAD RETURNED WITH A WIFE.



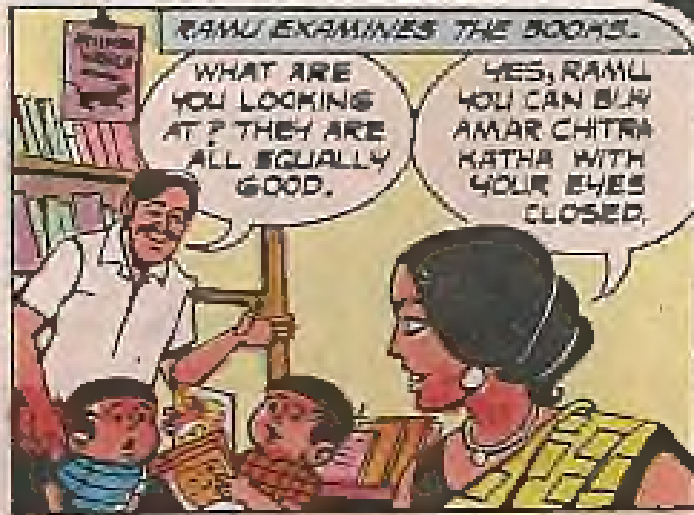
OUR PRINCE
HAS RETURNED
AS IF FROM
THE DEAD.

AND THE
STEADFAST
RATI IS
HIS QUEEN.

TODAY IS
INDEED A
FORTUNATE
DAY FOR
DWARAKA.

RAMU TURNS DETECTIVE

AT THE BOOK-SHOP —



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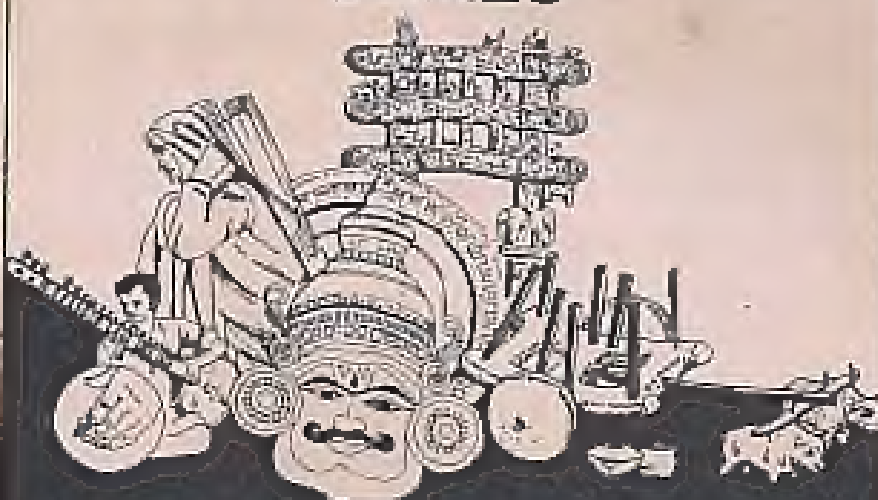
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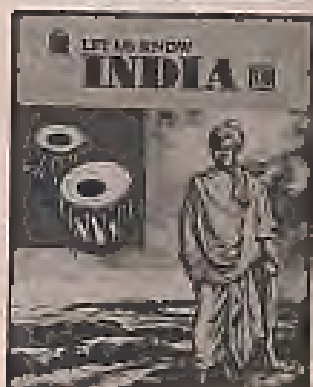
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